



**Joint Information Center - JIC Release No. 415**  
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### **DPHSS Issues Guidance Memo 2020-042 - Minimum Requirements for Halloween**

For information on COVID-19 cases, visit the official COVID-19 Situation Report at <http://dphss.guam.gov/covid-19/>.

#### **DPHSS Issues Guidance Memo 2020-042**

The Department of Public Health and Social Services (DPHSS) issued Guidance Memo 2020-042, relative to the minimum requirements in celebration of Halloween.

**DPHSS discourages traditional door-to-door trick-or-treating. Social gatherings of more than five (5) individuals (i.e. Halloween and/or costume parties, haunted houses, etc.) are strictly prohibited.**

The following guidelines are designed to minimize the risk of COVID-19 infection.

The DPHSS strongly encourages safe alternative activities to enjoying Halloween such as:

- Decorating and carving pumpkins with only those in the same household;
- Decorating your home;
- Admiring Halloween decorations in your neighborhood at a distance;
- Reading classic Halloween stories with those in the same household;
- Baking Halloween-themed cookies;
- Watching Halloween-themed movies or shows at your house;
- Hiding Halloween treats in and around the house;
- Participating in safe curbside trick-or-treating events sponsored by responsible businesses;
- Holding drive-by costume or car-decorating contests with judges who are physically distanced; and/or
- Holding a virtual Halloween costume contest so everyone can show off their costume.

**In the event individuals choose to participate in traditional door-to-door trick-or-treating, DPHSS provides requirements below for all individuals involved.**

#### **A. General Guidance**

- Individuals experiencing flu-like symptoms or COVID-19-like symptoms are prohibited from participating in trick-or-treating.
- Trick-or-treat only with members of the same household.
- Face masks coverings must be worn by all individuals with the exception of children under the age of 2 or anyone who has difficulty breathing or a history of trouble breathing.
- Households that have individuals under isolation or under quarantine due to COVID-19 are strictly prohibited from participating in any trick-or-treating activities.

- All individuals participating in any trick-or-treating activities are advised to properly wash hands before and after each activity.
- Consider household members who may be at greater risk of complications if COVID-19 is brought into the home, such as those with underlying health conditions, women who are pregnant, or older family members.

#### **B. Guidance for Individuals/Households Distributing Treats**

- Wash hands properly before and after handling treats.
- Wear a face mask at all times.
- Avoid direct contact with other trick-or-treaters and maintain social distancing of six (6) feet or more.
- Treats should only be distributed outdoors.
- Use store-bought treats that are individually plastic-wrapped.
- Adults should be the individuals distributing treats while wearing a face mask and hand sanitizing between trick-or-treaters.
- It is highly encouraged to practice safer, socially distant ways to conduct door-to-door trick-or-treating and distributing treats:
  - Set up a table/station outdoors with individually bagged treats spaced apart for trick-or-treaters to take.
  - Use a candy slide made of PVC pipe, or hanging treats from a wall or fence.
- It is highly encouraged to use tongs, a spoon, or a tray to distribute treats. Children should not be allowed to retrieve their treats from a bowl or bag.
- COVID-19 positive individuals or individuals in quarantine are strictly prohibited from distributing any treats.

#### **C. Guidance for Parents/Guardians/Adults Responsible for Underage Trick-or-Treaters and for Trick-or-Treaters**

- Parents/Guardians should talk with their children about safety precautions and physical distancing in preparation of trick-or-treating.
- If your child is at greater risk of complications from COVID-19, contact your doctor before allowing participation in Halloween activities.
- Wear a face mask:
  - Highly encouraged to make face masks a part of Halloween costumes.
  - A costume mask is not a substitute for a face mask.
  - Do NOT wear a costume mask over a cloth mask or a cloth mask over a costume mask as it may make breathing more difficult.
- Practice social distancing:
  - Stay at least six (6) feet away from others who do not live in the same household
  - Individuals are more likely to get or spread COVID-19 when in close contact with others for a total of 15 minutes or more over a 24 hour period.
- Wash your hands:
  - Bring hand sanitizer (with at least 60% alcohol) with you and use it after touching objects or other individuals.
  - Parents/Guardians: supervise young children using hand sanitizers.

- Wash hands with soap and water for at least twenty (20) seconds when you get home and before you consume any treats.
- Upon completion of trick-or-treating, it is highly advised to:
  - Leave treats out for 48 hours before consuming.
  - Allow children to eat only original, factory-wrapped treats. Avoid homemade treats made by strangers.

#### **D. Guidance for Business Operators Distributing Treats**

- It is highly discouraged for businesses to distribute treats in an enclosed or indoor area or in an in-person and non-curbside manner.
- Outdoor, drive-up, and curbside is highly preferable during the distribution of treats.
  - For Employees Distributing Treats:
    - Face masks are required to be worn by all employees distributing treats.
    - Hands must be washed by employees with soap for a minimum of twenty (20) seconds or with hand sanitizer (with 60% or more alcohol) before handling treats. Use hand sanitizers between servicing trick-or-treating vehicles.
    - It is highly encouraged to use tongs, a spoon, or a tray to distribute treats. Children should not be allowed to retrieve their treats from a bowl or bag.
  - For Individuals Receiving Treats:
    - Individuals shall not exit their vehicles.
    - Turn off any mechanical ventilation (i.e. fan and air conditioning) of the vehicle before driving up to receive treats.
    - Face masks must be worn by all individuals in the vehicle while receiving treats.
- All other DPHSS guidance memos and minimum requirements must be followed to include, but not be limited to:
  - Follow all occupancy requirements and limitations currently in effect.
  - Do not allow any congregation of individuals.
  - Have hand sanitizers readily available to all customers.
  - Eliminate all common seating, congregate, or play areas where children and others might gather.
  - Follow all other DPHSS guidance memos and minimum requirements currently in effect.

The DPHSS also asks the public to download the Guam COVID Alert app. For more information visit <https://guamcovidalert.guam.gov>. For additional questions, please contact the Division of Environmental Health at 300-9579 between 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

For the latest information on COVID-19, visit [dphss.guam.gov](http://dphss.guam.gov) or [guamrecovery.com](http://guamrecovery.com). For inquiries on COVID-19, contact 311 through a local number, or call the Joint Information Center at (671) 478-0208/09/10.

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